

**House File 61 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 61

BY M. SMITH

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act providing for ongoing absentee voter status.

2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1     Section 1. NEW SECTION.   **53.4 Ongoing absentee voter.**

2     A registered voter applying for an absentee ballot under  
 3 section 53.2 may request to receive an absentee ballot for all  
 4 subsequent elections, for each subsequent general election,  
 5 for each subsequent presidential election, for each subsequent  
 6 school election, or for each subsequent city election in  
 7 which that person is eligible to vote and qualifies under  
 8 section 53.1. The state commissioner shall provide check  
 9 boxes on the prescribed form for this purpose. For those  
 10 subsequent elections for which the voter has requested ongoing  
 11 absentee status, the county commissioner of elections shall  
 12 automatically mail an absentee ballot to the requesting voter,  
 13 or automatically deliver an absentee ballot if the requester  
 14 is a resident or patient of a health care facility or hospital  
 15 pursuant to section 53.22. A voter's status as an ongoing  
 16 absentee voter shall be terminated upon the request of the  
 17 voter or by the county commissioner if the voter fails to  
 18 qualify under section 53.1. A voter may request to make  
 19 changes to any request submitted pursuant to this section.

20                                   EXPLANATION

21     This bill allows an absentee voter to receive absentee  
 22 ballots for all subsequent elections or for general elections,  
 23 presidential elections, school elections, or city elections  
 24 without having to reapply before each election. A person's  
 25 status as an ongoing absentee voter can be terminated by that  
 26 person or by the county commissioner of elections if the person  
 27 fails to qualify as an absentee voter. A voter may request to  
 28 make changes to any previously submitted request.